

Administrative Notice

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AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE CIVIL RIGHTS POLICY STATEMENT

As Federal employees, we are sworn to maintain high standards of ethics and conduct while upholding the Constitution and the laws of the Nation. This obligation includes abiding by all laws concerning equal employment opportunity (EEO) and civil rights (CR).

As your Administrator, I am firmly committed to ensuring the Agricultural Marketing Service's (AMS) compliance with civil rights and equal employment opportunity for everyone regardless of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation, marital or family status, political beliefs, parental status, or protected genetic information.

There is no principle more important. We must comply with every aspect of our Nation's civil rights laws. To do otherwise is simply not acceptable and will not be tolerated.

It is the policy of AMS that discrimination in all phases of employment and delivery of AMS services is strictly prohibited. AMS is committed to diversifying its work force; ensuring equal opportunity; respecting the civil rights of all employees, applicants, clients and customers; and creating a work environment that is free from discrimination and harassment, while accommodating the needs of persons with disabilities.

All executives, managers, supervisors, employees and cooperators of AMS are expected to support and comply with the Secretary's EEO and Civil Rights Policy Statement and the principles in this statement.

I further expect each Deputy Administrator and Staff Director to manage his/her EEO/CR Program in cooperation with the Agency's EEO resources, emphasizing proactive resolution of EEO/CR complaints, complaint prevention strategies and work force diversity.

I will use all and every means of evaluation to monitor and measure the implementation of the principles in this statement. Therefore, all employees will be held personally accountable for their conduct and performance, as public servants, in equal opportunity and civil rights.

Together we can create a better workplace for all employees and an Agency that delivers programs and services to all people fairly and with integrity and equality.

I look forward to fulfilling this vision - our goals - together.

/s/

A. J. Yates
Administrator